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Development of good-neighbourly relations among Balkan States

Maintenance of international security

Letter dated 13 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Joint Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States participating in the Process for Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe done in New York, on 12 September 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 66 and 67.

(*Signed*) Naste Čalovski
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

00-64387 (E) 260900

Annex to the letter dated 13 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States participating in the Process for Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe

New York, 12 September 2000

The States participating in the Process for Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe met in New York on 12 September 2000, at the margins of the United Nations Miliennium Assembly. The meeting was also attended by Foreign Ministers Tonino Picula and Jadranko Prlic. Foreign Minister Branko Lukovac and the Deputy Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact, Donald Kursch, were also present.

At the meeting, States participating in the Process continued their dialogue on the promotion and deepening of regional cooperation and discussed the importance of the implementation of the Stability Pact, particularly the current political and security situation in the region.

Following the meeting, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States, the Chairman of the Process, Aleksandar Dimitrov, Paskal Milo, Ismail Cem, George Papandreou, Nadezda Mihailova and Petre Roman, adopted this joint declaration.

The Ministers agreed that the activities of the Process for Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe are in accordance with the commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration for intensifying cooperation between the United Nations and regional agencies, institutions and organizations with the aim of strengthening international peace and security.

The Ministers reaffirmed their strong commitment to the Stability Pact and call upon the international community to accelerate the process of implementation of the Stability Pact projects, thus enabling economic prosperity of the countries of South-Eastern Europe, strengthening the democratic processes and security, as well as the observance of human rights. They stressed the urgency for full and timely implementation of the Stability Pact that would contribute to the realization of the main aim, full integration of the region in the European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

Reaffirming their commitment that the elections in the region should be fair and democratic, the Ministers expressed hope that they will contribute to further democratization and stability in the region.

The Foreign Ministers expressed their concern about the latest development of the situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in regard to the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections, confirming their support for the democratic forces in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, for the independent media and for the civic society and their efforts to start democratic processes and economic prosperity. In view of the situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia following the recent unilateral constitutional changes, the Ministers took note of the position of Montenegro in boycotting the elections. They call for free and fair elections to be

organized in accordance with European and OSCE standards, with the full involvement of representatives of civil society as a first crucial step towards the democratization of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Furthermore, they expressed their countries' solidarity with the citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with the responsible democratic political forces in that country, in their effort to bring about fundamental democratic changes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Ministers expressed their support for the stability and reform processes in Montenegro and to its democratically elected Government to continue with the economic and democratic development as well as for its larger involvement in the work of the international bodies and organizations, increased participation in the framework of the Stability Pact projects and in other regional cooperation processes.

Exchanging views on the current situation in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Ministers reiterated their position on the importance of fully and consequently observing and implementing Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). Welcoming the efforts of the international community for the establishment of lasting peace, stability and democratic development, they stressed the importance of the inviolability of international borders, respect of human rights and the rights of all citizens living in Kosovo. In that regard, they reiterated the importance of holding fair and democratic elections in Kosovo with the aim of building a multi-ethnic society and democratic institutions that would further stabilize the overall situation.